



Amos Roger Bien

February 2, 1951 - November 19, 2017

AMOS ROGER BIEN, adored father, grandfather, brother and mentor passed away after a long illness on November 19, 2017. Born in New York City on February 12, 1951, he is survived by two sisters, three children, four grandchildren and 5 nephews. He taught us all to see the best in people and to do the right thing always. A magnetic and brilliant personality full of humor, love and compassion, he raised his children well demonstrating that not being afraid to be different can change the world.

He himself revolutionized the world by being a pioneer in rainforest conservation, ecotourism and sustainable development. His influence remains strong in many countries, especially in Costa Rica.

The world has lost a true Renaissance man and a wonderful human being. He was buried in Cedar Grove Cemetery in Williamsburg, VA. In lieu of flowers, please donate in his memory to Rara-Avis.com or to another worthy environmental cause.

Comments



“ We met Amos in 1980 when we began our work at the La Selva Biological Station. We frequently stayed in his home, ate there, and slept there, and left boxes filled with field equipment for far too long. His generosity was legendary. There were times when friends came to him and stayed in his house for months. Talk invariably continued into the late night. Amos was erudite and wise. He was a great judge of human motivation and character and understood meanness, but he, himself, was always kind, always grinned, and was always enthusiastic. His sterling character was such that it set him apart from the rest of us. Good bye, Amos. We love you. Milton & Diana Lieberman / email: liebermv@racsa.co.cr

Milton Lieberman & Diana Lieberman - December 30, 2017 at 12:04 PM



“ In addition to being a leader in a cutting-edge field (and therefore a pioneer himself), Amos was a dedicated mentor and dear friend to me. From my first days at GSTC as a volunteer, then consultant, then Associate Technical Director under Amos, he went above and beyond the call of duty to train me and share his insights and guidance. He was an encyclopedia of sustainable tourism practices and certification, and the one that—not just his immediate colleagues, but—individuals across organizations would consult as a valuable resource and advisor since he shaped the foundations of our discipline. A whole industry is shaken with the loss of Amos Bien. We will serve his professional legacy well.

Despite his groundbreaking professional achievements, my favorite memories of Amos have more to do with his sparkling personality. He always looked on the bright side, quick to find humor and was a pleasure to be around, in early days and even as his health was failing. The best times were getting lost in side-splitting laughter with Amos. He lived life to the fullest, embracing arguably too many things at once to help make others' lives (including wildlife) better and his own more full of meaningful experiences. He always spoke proudly and with a glimmer in his eye about his children, whom I know from Amos are building their own legacies through their work, families, and innovative music! I miss Amos dearly, he has carved a hole in a worthy industry and in our hearts that only he can fill. So he'll always be there! Pretty cunning of him, huh?

Much love,
Kathleen Pessolano



Kathleen Pessolano - December 01, 2017 at 10:10 AM



“ The Center for Responsible Travel (CREST) is deeply saddened by the loss of our long-time colleague and friend, Amos Bien, has died in Costa Rica. Although we knew Amos was nearing his last days, the finality leaves us with deep grief. Amos was a true pioneer in the field of sustainable tourism, a trail blazer with a keen mind, a kind and gentle heart, and a generous spirit. Amos worked tirelessly in ecotourism/sustainable tourism for almost four decades, creating Rara Avis, Costa Rica’s first real ecolodge and becoming one of the world’s leading experts on eco-certification and accreditation standards. We all learned so much from him. We will miss him enormously. R.I.P. dear Amos.

Martha Honey, Exec Dir, CREST - December 01, 2017 at 05:39 AM